

**U. S. Customs and Border Protection
Office of Strategic Trade
Regulatory Audit Division**

Focused Assessment Program

October 2003

Documents Required for a Focused Assessment

NOTE: These documents supersede the Focused Assessment Program documents dated October 2002.

INTRODUCTION

In March 2003, the U.S. Customs Service became part of U.S. Customs and Border Protection, which will continue to be referenced as Customs in this document.

The passage of the Customs Modernization Act (Mod Act) in 1993 provided the framework for a partnership between the importing public and Customs. Under the Mod Act, Customs and the importer share the responsibility for compliance with trade laws and regulations. The importer is responsible for declaring the value, classification, and rate of duty applicable to entered merchandise, and Customs is responsible for informing the importer of its rights and responsibilities under the law.

Customs is committed to providing the importer with all the information needed to be in compliance with Customs laws and regulations. To fulfill this commitment, Customs is making available on its Web site (www.customs.gov) the documents commonly referred to as the FA Kit. These documents are the same handbooks, audit program, sampling plans, and guidelines that regulatory auditors and other Customs specialists on a Focused Assessment (FA) team use to conduct a Pre-Assessment Survey (PAS), Assessment Compliance Testing (ACT), and FA follow-up. Providing the FA Kit to the trade is intended to help importers prepare for a Focused Assessment and conduct an assessment of their own Customs systems.

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